IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. **(Currently amended)** A first station for supporting a conference call with a plurality of other stations over a packet-switched network, the first station enabling a voice conference in response to a conference request signal received from each of the plurality of other stations, the first station comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules including a means for conferencing and a means for establishing a communication channel, wherein:

said means for conferencing **is operable to receive** ~~associated with~~ a conference request signal, and

said means for establishing a communication channel **is operable to establish a communication channel** between the first station and a second station in response to said means for conferencing **receiving the conference request signal**, the communication channel supporting voice communication over the packet-switched network; and

means for mixing input signals which mixes the signals received at the first station to produce a combined signal output which is played at said first station**; and** ̱

means for transferring ~~the communication channel~~ *a communication* between the first station and the second station to a third station by disconnecting the second station from the conference call and establishing a communication channel between the first station and the third station based upon a transfer signal transmitted by said second station.

2. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 1, wherein said means for conferencing enables the first station to be set in conference mode.

3. **(Currently amended)** The first station of Claim 1, wherein said means for **establishing the communication channel** ~~conferencing~~ is configured to transmit a signal which causes the plurality of stations to indicate the establishing of said communication channel.

4. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 1, further comprising:

means, in communication with said means for conferencing, for authorizing a station to establish a communication channel based upon receiving an identification code having a pre-designated association to the conference call.

5. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 4, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the second station.

6. **(Currently amended)** The first station of **Claim 1** ~~Claim 5~~, wherein the identification code includes a ~~valid~~ call-reference, **the call-reference comprising the header of a data packet, the header indicating a station from which the data packet was received.**

7.   **(Original)**   The first station of Claim 4, wherein the authorizing means is configured to prevent the establishing of a communication channel between the first and second stations if the second station is not authorized to obtain access to the conference call.

8.   **(Canceled)**

9.   **(Currently amended)**   The first station of **Claim 1** ~~Claim 8~~, wherein the transfer signal includes a conference request signal designating the third station.

10.   **(Currently amended)**   The first station of **Claim 1** ~~Claim 8~~, wherein the **transfer** ~~conference request~~ signal ~~and~~ includes a call-reference identifying the second station.

11.   **(Currently amended)**   The first station of **Claim 1** ~~Claim 8~~, further comprising:
        means, in communication with said means for conferencing, for **detecting changes in** ~~monitoring the packet-switched network and evaluating~~ network conditions affecting quality of service, said **conferencing means** ~~second station~~ providing **a transfer** ~~the transfer~~ signal **to said second station** in response to said means for **detecting changes in network conditions** detecting a change in   network conditions affecting quality of service ~~monitoring the packet-switched network~~.

12.   **(Original)**   The first station of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a telephonic device and can establish a voice communication channel over a packet-switched network.

13. **(Currently amended)** A method for establishing a conference call at a first station with a plurality of stations over a packet-switched network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first conference request signal at a first station **from a second station**;

determining whether the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station based on an identification code received by the first station, wherein the identification code "uniquely identifies" the second station; and

establishing a ~~first~~ communication channel between the first station and a second station**, if the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station**.

~~receiving a second conference request signal at the first station;~~

~~establishing a second communication channel between the first station and a third station; and~~

~~mixing the input signals from the first and second communication channels at the first station and playing a combined signal output at said first station.~~

14. **(Original)** The method of Claim 13, wherein the first station is in conference mode such that said first station can support a conference call.

15. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of:

indicating to the first **station and the second station** ~~,~~ ~~second, and third station~~ the establishment of the ~~first and second~~ communication **channel** ~~channels~~.

16.   **(Currently amended)**   The method of Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

prior to performing the step of establishing the ~~first~~ communication channel, determining whether the first station can support a communication channel for voice communication over the packet-switched network with the second station; and

if so, performing said establishing step between the first and second stations,

else, sending a transfer signal which includes a conference request command designating a **third** ~~fourth~~ station.

17.   **(Currently amended)**   The method of Claim 16, wherein the conference request command triggers the second station to establish a communication channel between the second **station and the third station** ~~and fourth stations~~.

18.   **(Currently amended)**   The method of Claim 16, wherein the **transfer signal** ~~conference request command~~ includes a call-reference ~~and~~ **that** identifies the first station.

19.   **(Currently amended)**   The method of claim 16, wherein the conference request command designates the **third** ~~fourth~~ station based on network conditions affecting quality of service.

20.   **(Canceled)**

21. **(Currently amended)** The method of **Claim 13** ~~Claim 20~~, wherein the step of determining whether the second **station is** ~~and third stations are~~ authorized to establish a communication channel with the fist station comprises the steps of:

pre-designating an identification code of each authorized station in a memory unit of the first station, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the authorized stations; and

determining whether the first station receives an authorized identification code from the second **station** ~~and third stations~~.

22. **(Currently amended)** The method of **Claim 13** ~~Claim 20~~, wherein the step of determining whether the second **station is** ~~and third stations are~~ authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station comprises the steps of:

signaling the first station from the second station;

~~signaling the first station from the third station; and~~

determining whether the first station receives appropriate response signals from **the second station** ~~said second and third stations~~.

23. **(Currently amended)** The method of **Claim 13** ~~Claim 20~~, wherein if it is determined that the second ~~or third~~ station is not authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station, denying said second ~~or third~~ station access to said first station.

24. **(Original)** The method of Claim 13, wherein the first station is a telephonic device and can establish a voice communication channel over a packet-switched network.

25. **(Currently amended)** A method for maintaining a conference call when a first station disconnects from the conference call, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether a communication channel between **a first** ~~the first~~ station and a second station **has been established** ~~is supported at said first station~~; **and**

if it is determined that ~~a communication~~ **the communication** channel ~~is supported at the first station~~ **has been established**, then **transmitting a transfer request to a third station** ~~transferring the communication channel to a third station~~,

✓else, disconnecting the first station from the conference call.

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of **determining whether the communication channel has been established** ~~transferring the communication channel to a third station~~ further comprises the step of:

identifying a third station to transfer the communication channel based on network conditions affecting quality of service determined by the first station.

27. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of transmitting the transfer request ~~transferring the communication channel~~ to **the third** ~~a third~~ station includes providing a call-reference identifying the first station.

28.   **(Currently amended)** A first station for supporting a conference call with a plurality of other stations over a packet-switched network, the first station comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules including a conferencing module and a channel establishment module, wherein

the conferencing module **is operable to receive** ~~receives~~ a conference request signal from a second station and **to determine** ~~determines~~ whether to establish a communication channel between the first and second stations, and

the channel establishment module is operable, based upon the determination of the conferencing module, ~~said channel establishment module establishing~~ **to establish** the communication channel which supports voice communication over the packet-switched network; ~~and~~

a mixed module for mixing input signals received at the first station to produce a combined signal output which is played at said first station**; and**

a transfer controller operable to transfer the communication channel between the first and second stations to a third station by disconnecting second station from the conference call, and wherein the channel establishment module establishes a second communication channel between the first and third stations based upon a transfer signal provided by said second station.

29.   **(Original)** The first station of Claim 28, wherein the conferencing module transmits a signal and causes the plurality of stations to indicate the establishing of the communications channel.

30. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 28, further comprising an authorization module, in communication with the conferencing module, for determining whether the second station is authorized to establish a voice communication channel with the first station.

31. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 30, wherein the authorization module determines whether the second station is authorized based upon receiving an identification code having a pre-designated association to the conference call.

32. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 31, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the second station.

33. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 32, wherein the identification code includes a valid call-reference.

34. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 30, wherein the authorization module is configured to prevent the establishing of a communication channel between the first and second stations if the second station is not authorized to obtain access to the conference call.

35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Currently amended)** The first station of **Claim 28** ~~Claim 35~~, wherein the transfer signal includes a conference request signal designating the third station.

37. **(Original)** The first station of Claim 36, wherein the transfer signal includes a call-reference identifying the second station.

38. **(Currently amended)** The first station of **Claim 28** ~~Claim 35~~, further comprising a network monitoring module for **detecting changes in** ~~monitoring the packet-switched network and evaluating~~ network conditions affecting quality of service, said **network monitoring module** ~~second station~~ providing **a transfer** ~~the transfer~~ signal **to said second station** in response to ~~an evaluation by~~ said network monitoring module **detecting a change in network conditions affecting quality of service**.

39. **(New)**   A first station for supporting voice communication with one or more other stations:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules including a means for conferencing and a means for establishing a communication channel, wherein

the means for conferencing associated with a conference request signal, and

the means for establishing a communication channel between a first station and a second station in response to the means for conferencing, the communication channel supporting voice communication over a packet-switched network; and

means for mixing input signals which mixes the signals received at the first station to produce a combined signal output which is played at the first station; and

means, in communication with the means for conferencing, for authorizing a station to establish a communication channel based upon receiving an identification code, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the second station.

40. **(New)**   The first station of Claim 39, wherein the identification code includes a call-reference, the call-reference comprising a header of a data packet, the header indicating a station from which the data packet was received.

41. **(New)**   The first station of Claim 39, wherein the authorizing means is configured to prevent the establishment of a communication channel between the first station and the second station if the second station is not authorized to access the conference call.

42. **(New)** The first station of Claim 39, wherein the transfer signal includes a conference request signal designating the third station.

43. **(New)** The first station of Claim 39, wherein the transfer signal comprises a call-reference identifying the second station.

44. **(New)** The first station of Claim 39, further comprising:

means for detecting changes in network conditions that affecting quality of service, and wherein the conferencing means providing a transfer signal to the second station in response to the means for detecting changes in network conditions detecting a change in network conditions affecting quality of service.

programming step.

45.   **(New)** (Logic) embodied in computer-readable media and operable to perform the following steps:

receiving a first conference request signal at a first station from a second station;

determining whether the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station based on an identification code received by the first station, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the second station; and

establishing a communication channel between the first station and a second station, if the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station.

46.   **(New)**   The logic of Claim 45, wherein the logic is operable to establish the communication channel by:

determining whether the first station can support a communication channel for voice communication over the packet-switched network with the second station;

in response to determining that the first station can support the communication channel, establishing the communication channel;

in response to determining that the first station can not support the communication channel, sending a transfer signal which includes a conference request command designating a third station.

47.   **(New)**   The logic of Claim 46, wherein the logic is further operable to establish a communication channel between the second station and the third station in response to the conference request command.

48. **(New)** The logic of Claim 46, wherein the logic is operable to send the transfer signal by sending a transfer signal that comprises a call-reference identifying the first station.

49. **(New)** The logic of Claim 46, wherein the logic is operable to send a transfer signal by:

identifying the third station based on network conditions; and

sending a transfer signal that includes a conference request command designating the third station.

50. **(New)** The logic of Claim 46, wherein the logic is further operable to determine whether the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station.

51. **(New)** The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is operable to determine whether the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the fist station by:

storing an identification code of each of a plurality of authorized stations in a memory unit at the first station, wherein each identification code uniquely identifies a particular authorized station; and

determining whether the first station receives an identification code from the second station that matches a stored identification code.

52. **(New)** The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is further operable to determine whether the second station is authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station by:

signaling the first station from the second station;

determining whether the first station receives appropriate response signals from the second station.

53. **(New)** The logic of Claim 50, wherein the logic is further operable to deny the second station access to the first station, in response to determining that the second station is not authorized to establish a communication channel with the first station.

54.   (New) Logic embodied in computer-readable media and operable to perform the following steps:

determining whether a communication channel between a first station and a second station has been established;

in response to determining that the communication channel has been established, transmitting a transfer request to a third station,

in response to determining that the communication channel has not been established, disconnecting the first station from the conference call.

55.   (New) The logic of Claim 54, wherein the logic is operable to transmitting the transfer request to the third station by:

identifying the third station based on network conditions affecting quality of service determined by the first station; and

transmitting the transfer request to the third station.

56.   (New) The logic of Claim 54, wherein the logic is operable to transmit the transfer request by transmitting a transfer request to the third station that includes a call-reference identifying the first station.

57.   **(New)**   A first station for supporting a conference call with a plurality of other stations over a packet-switched network, the first station comprising:

a storage medium, operable to store a plurality of programming modules including a conferencing module and a channel establishment module;

the conferencing module, operable to receive a conference request signal from a second station and to determine whether to establish a communication channel between the first station and a second station, wherein the communication channel supports voice communication over a packet-switched network, and

the channel establishment module, operable to establish, based upon the determination of the conferencing module;

a mixed module for mixing input signals received at the first station to produce a combined signal output which is played at the first station; and

an authorization module, operable to determine whether the second station is authorized to establish a voice communication channel with the first station based upon receipt of an identification code which uniquely identifies the second station.

58.   **(New)**   The first station of Claim 57, wherein the identification code includes a call-reference, the call-reference comprising a header of a data packer, the header indicating a station from which the data packet was received.

59.   **(New)**   The first station of Claim 57, wherein the authorization module is further operable to prevent the establishment of a communication channel between the first station and the second station if the second station is not authorized to obtain access to the conference call.

60.   **(New)**   The first station of Claim 57, further comprising a network monitoring module operable to detect a change in network conditions affecting quality of service and to provide a transfer signal to a second station in response to detecting a change in network conditions affecting quality of service.

61. **(New)** A method for establishing a conference call at a first station with a plurality of stations over a packet-switched network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first conference request signal at a first station;

determining whether the first station can support a communication channel for voice communication over the packet-switched network with a second station; and

if so, establishing a first communication channel between the first station and the second station,

else, sending a transfer signal which includes a conference request command designating a fourth station;

receiving a second conference request signal at the first station;

establishing a second communication channel between the first station and a third station; and

mixing the input signals from the first and second communication channels at the first station and playing a combined signal output at said first station.

62. **(New)** The method of Claim 61, wherein the conference request command triggers the second station to establish a communication channel between the second and fourth stations.

63. **(New)** The method of Claim 61, wherein the conference request command includes a call-reference that identifies the first station.

64. **(New)** The method of Claim 61, wherein the conference request command designates the fourth station based on network conditions affecting quality of service.